

Three EMSB schools celebrate their “Golden” anniversaries

As the 20256-26 academic year winded down, three EMSB schools celebrated their 50th anniversary.

Lester B. Pearson High School in Montreal North held a special event, honoring five decades of memories, achievements, and a proud community. The milestone highlighted the experiences and connections built both in classrooms and throughout the hallways. A number of former administrators joined past and present staff, alumni, and students for the celebration. Alongside the LBPHS administration’s expressions of gratitude, EMSB Chair Joe Ortona warmly welcomed the community with thoughtful and engaging remarks. Guests enjoyed great food, live music, and activities for all ages.

FACE School held its 50th anniversary concert. under honorary chair Elizabeth Wirth. This was the Symphony Orchestra’s final presentation of its 28th season. “When I founded this orchestra, the role of this extra-curricular ensemble in FACE’s already comprehensive music program was



A scene from the 50th anniversary concert of the FACE Symphony Orchestra

difficult to justify and its contribution could be not be assessed,” said Founding Director and Conductor Theodora Stathopoulos. “Looking back now we can appreciate that the Symphony has helped place FACE on the provincial, national and international map by attracting talented students, outstanding soloists, competent teachers, famous guest conductors, multicultural collab-

orations and a younger generation of leaders training in the Junior and Senior orchestras.”

MIND High School (originally Moving in New Directions), located in the historical Bancroft Building on the Plateau, marked its big year. The school’s educational mandate focuses on fostering critical thinking skills and enriching education through

alternative teaching methods. MIND is the ideal space for the curious, motivated student who wishes to participate actively in their own education and exceed expectations rather than follow rules. It remains the only alternative school of its kind in the EMSB. Several events took place at the school, culminating in a festive soirée. There was also a talk between students and some

noted alumni which included Matt D’Amours of CBC TV, Academy Award winning filmmaker Frederic Bohbot, musician Tobias Kimmelman and original head teacher Michele Clarborough. Independently, D’Amours produced his own documentary on MIND. You can watch it on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/4LYgib-4oOs>

GET READY
FOR THIS YEAR'S



OPEN HOUSES

Open House season at the English Montreal School Board is well underway in the youth sector.

Doors are now open to welcome prospective students and their families to showcase all that the schools have to offer. It is a valuable opportunity to meet the administration, staff and students, explore the facilities and ask questions.

For a complete list visit:

www.emsbopenhouses.com

PRÉPAREZ-VOUS POUR LES JOURNÉES PORTES OUVERTES

La saison des journées portes ouvertes de la Commission scolaire English-Montréal bat son plein dans le secteur jeunesse.

Les portes sont désormais ouvertes pour accueillir les futurs élèves et leurs familles afin de leur présenter tout ce que les écoles ont à offrir. C'est une occasion précieuse de rencontrer l'administration, le personnel et les élèves, de découvrir les installations et de poser des questions.

Pour obtenir la liste complète



Global News at 5:30 6:30 & 11:00

with Laura Casella

Weeknights



Globalnews.ca



CAQ's plan to apply Bill 101 to adult sector is misguided and deeply flawed

Chair's Message



Joe Ortona

With a provincial election scheduled for October 5, some 14,000 adult students currently enrolled in the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) network stand at risk of being shut out of their chosen education and training pathways. The Quebec government, under the CAQ's new leadership, is recklessly reviving its plan to extend Bill 101's restrictions to adult education and vocational training. This misguided move would impose the same eligibility criteria used for elementary and secondary students (requiring a parent educated in English in Canada) onto adult learners, with devastating consequences for Quebec's economy and workforce.

The proposal was not adopted in the last session, but new Premier Christine Frechette has pledged to revive it if the CAQ is re-elected. Minister Jean-François Roberge has spoken of redirecting some 27,000 adult students to the French

network. This figure is not only inflated but dangerously detached from reality. Forcing adult learners out of English centres will not produce a smooth, one-for-one transfer. It will instead trigger widespread dropouts, prolonged delays, and lost opportunities.

The government's rationale rests on deeply flawed assumptions. Many adult learners, particularly immigrants, newcomers, and those still building French proficiency, simply will not be ready for immediate immersion in French-language programs. They will drop out due to language barriers, languish on francization waiting lists, face excessive travel burdens to distant centres, or lose access to the specialized support services available in the English network.

At the EMSB, we estimate that 65 to 70 percent of currently eligible adult learners could lose access under these restrictions. This is a massive disruption that will choke off the supply of skilled graduates at precisely the wrong time. Quebec already grapples with severe labour shortages across critical sectors. Diminishing the flow of trained workers into healthcare, daycare, construction, trades, hospitality, and administration is shortsighted and economically self-destructive.

English adult education and vocational programs deliver excellent results. Placement rates in key areas such as health and

child care routinely reach 75 to 95 percent. These graduates quickly become productive taxpayers and contributors to Quebec society. Small and medium-sized businesses across Quebec rely heavily on this talent pipeline for talented employees who meet real workplace needs.

Restricting access will not magically strengthen French in the workplace. Studying in an English vocational centre does not prevent graduates from working in French. On the contrary, students gain technical skills and confidence faster in their stronger language, then naturally improve their French skills on the job. Many programs already incorporate French modules, technical terminology, bilingual materials, and French-language internships.

By blocking these proven pathways, the government is

sabotaging successful integration and reducing overall workforce participation.

Les retombées financières et opérationnelles seront graves. La forte baisse des inscriptions obligera les conseils scolaires anglophones à réduire l'offre de programmes, à supprimer la formation spécialisée et à fermer éventuellement des centres dans certaines régions. Des centaines de postes d'enseignement et de soutien seront menacés.

Rien qu'à la CSEM, le financement de l'éducation des adultes contribue à hauteur de 15 millions de dollars par an au soutien de nos réseaux primaire et secondaire. La suppression de cette source de revenus vitale nuira aux élèves de tous les niveaux et minera la capacité de l'ensemble du système d'éducation publique à servir les Québécois.

Cette politique frappe au cœur des possibilités individuelles. Les apprenants adultes reprennent souvent leurs études après une interruption de scolarité, une perte d'emploi, un changement de carrière ou en tant que nouveaux arrivants cherchant à prendre pied dans la société québécoise. Des programmes comme l'initiative d'intégration socioprofessionnelle (ISV) du Centre d'éducation des adultes de Wagar donnent accès à plus de 100 métiers semi-spécialisés, offrant aux étudiants un choix de plus de 100 métiers semi-spécialisés (de la technologie à la fabrication en passant par la garde d'enfants, l'aménagement paysager et l'entretien), ce qui leur apporte dignité, indépendance et emploi significatif.

For my full message go to
<https://www.emsb.qc.ca/emsb/about/governance/chairman>

Message from the Director General: The Lyre's Dream: Music provides a unique outlet for self-expression



Nick Katalifos

Education is often associated with subjects such as mathematics, science, and language arts. While these disciplines are essential, music also plays a significant role in helping young people develop the skills and qualities they need to succeed both inside and outside the classroom. Far more than an extracurricular activity, music education contributes to intellectual growth, emotional well-being, creativity, and social development.

From an early age, engaging with music encourages children to listen carefully, recognize patterns, and develop memory skills. Learning to play an instrument or participate in a choir requires

concentration, discipline, and perseverance. These habits often transfer to other areas of learning, helping students become more focused and resilient when faced with academic challenges.

Music also provides a unique outlet for self-expression. Young people frequently encounter a range of emotions as they grow and navigate new experiences. Through composing, performing, or simply engaging with music, students can explore and communicate their feelings in ways that words alone may not allow. This creative expression can support confidence, emotional intelligence, and a stronger sense of identity.

At the EMSB the Lyre's Dream finally came to life last spring via a special presentation in the Red Chamber of the Canadian Senate and a concert at the Rosemount High School Auditorium. This marked the culmination of 18 months of dedication, imagination, and artistry. More than a performance, The Lyre's Dream is a passage through time. This EMSB educational and artistic initiative has at its heart the revival of the ancient Greek lyre, an

instrument once central to the poetry and music of the classical Mediterranean world. Long silent, its voice has been brought back to life through the pioneering work of Dr. Nikos Xanthoulis, composer, lyricist, Associate Researcher with the Academy of Athens, and Correspondent Member of the Archaeological Institute of America.

The Montreal presentation on April 23 in Rosemount featured the EMSB Chorale and Symphonic Ensemble, conducted by Marie Eve Arseneau, EMSB student narrators together with lyric soloists and project organizers Maria Diamantis and Dimitris Ilias. In this performance, the students became guides across time. Through their voices, ancient music and poetry resonated once again, transforming the stage into a meeting place between past and present. Earlier in the week in Ottawa, thanks to the support of Senator Leo Housakos, the Red Chamber performance took place. This was an extraordinary experience for all of the students who took part.

Produced by the Marketing and Communications Department of the

English Montreal School Board

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DateBook

2026	December 21, 2026 to January 4, 2027 Holiday Break
September 8 International Literacy Day	2027
September 11 National Grandparents' Day	January 2027 EMSB Public School Education Month
October 5 to 11 Fire Prevention Week www.afleq.ca	January 18 to February 5 K4/K5 to Grade 6 Registration Weeks
October 12 Thanksgiving	January 27 Family Literacy Day (www.fld-jaf.ca)
October 12 to 16 Week against bullying and violence at school (Quebec)	February 1 to 5 Staff Appreciation Week
October 21 Education and Career Fair Hosted by EMSB Student Services Department and Adult Education and Vocational Services	February 2027 Black History Month
October 26 to 30 National Media Literacy Week https://mediasmarts.ca/media-literacy-week	February 15 to 19 Hooked on School Days
November 5 and 6 Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers (QPAT) Convention	March 2027 EMSB Nutrition Month
November 11 Remembrance Day	March 1 to 5 March Break
November 30 to December 11 PSibling Registration (K4/K5 to Grade 6)	April 12 Terry Fox Day
December 10 Human Rights Day	April 18 to 24 National Volunteers Week
	May 1 Principal's Day
	May 5 EMSB Teacher's Recognition Day
	May 10 to 14 EMSB Base Daycare Appreciation Week

Council of Commissioners' Meetings

The EMSB Council of Commissioners meets in public once a month. They convene at 7 p.m. in the Laurence Patterson Conference Room of the administration building at 6000 Fielding Avenue. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please note that occasionally during the year special meetings are called. **Parents are urged to bookmark the EMSB website (www.emsb.qc.ca) to access board meeting agendas and to be advised about special meetings.** To register for question period please call 514-483-7200, ext. 7264.

The meetings scheduled for the remainder of this academic year are as follows:

September 23, 2026
October 28, 2026
November 25, 2026
January 27, 2027
February 24, 2027
March 24, 2027
April 28, 2027
May 26, 2027
June 9, 2027

All meetings can be viewed live at www.emsb.qc.ca

EMSB Commissioners

JOE ORTONA Chair president-chair@emsb.qc.ca Executive Committee (Chair) Quebec English School Boards Association (President)	WARD 5 Notre-Dame-de-Grâce SHARON NELSON snelson@emsb.qc.ca Executive Committee Advisory Committee on Special Education Services (Observer)	WARD 10 Westmount, Sud-Ouest, Ville-Marie JULIEN FELDMAN JFeldman@emsb.qc.ca Executive Committee Governance & Ethics Committee (Vice-Chair) Audit Committee Human Resources Committee
WARD 1 Ahuntsic-Cartierville, Montreal North SUSAN PERERA sperera@emsb.qc.ca	WARD 6 Rivière-des-Prairies, Pointe-aux-Trembles PIETRO MERCURI pmercuri@emsb.qc.ca Executive Committee (Vice-Chair) Transportation & Safety Advisory Committee Audit Committee (Vice-Chair) Governance & Ethics Committee	Parent Commissioner Secondary Schools JESSICA HOUDE-WOYTIUK JHoude-Woytiuk@emsb.qc.ca Member of: EMSB Parents Committee Executive Committee
WARD 2 Côte-des-Neiges, Notre-Dame-de-Grâce CHELSEA CRAIG ccraig@emsb.qc.ca Human Resources Committee Quebec English School Boards Association Transportation & Safety Advisory Committee	WARD 7 St-Laurent JAMES KROMIDA Vice-Chair jkromida@emsb.qc.ca	Parent Commissioner Elementary Schools MERIKA RAMUNDO mramundo@emsb.qc.ca Member of EMSB Parents Committee
WARD 3 Côte-Saint-Luc, Montreal West, Hampstead PAOLA SAMUEL psamuel@emsb.qc.ca Quebec English School Boards Association	WARD 8 Saint-Léonard MARIO PIETRANGELO mpietrangelo2@emsb.qc.ca Governance & Ethics Committee Human Resources Committee (Chair)	Parent Commissioner ACSES (Advisory Committee on Special Education Services) JULIE KRISTOF jkristof@emsb.qc.ca Member of EMSB Parents Committee
WARD 4 Mercier, Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, Rosemont, La Petite-Patrie, Plateau-Mont-Royal, Anjou, Montreal-Est MARIA CORSI Mcorsi2@emsb.qc.ca Executive Committee; Governance & Ethics Committee (Vice-Chair) Human Resources Committee	WARD 9 Villeray, Saint-Michel, Parc-Extension, Mont-Royal, Outremont PAULA KILIAN pkilian@emsb.qc.ca Executive Committee Audit Committee (Chair)	Parent Commissioner JENNIFER RUTT jrutt@emsb.qc.ca Member of EMSB Parents Committee Governance & Ethics Committee



ANNUAL EMSB EDUCATION AND CAREER FAIR

Open House set for Oct 21

ATTENTION students in Grades 9/10/11 and parents

You are invited to attend the 26th annual English Montreal School Board Education and Career Fair on Wednesday, October 21. Join us from 3:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

We are strongly recommending that students presently in Grades 9, 10 and 11 take advantage of this opportunity with their parents for a one-stop shop experience regarding post-secondary education opportunities at CEGEPs, private business colleges and vocational centres. Universities will also be represented in the large kiosk area.

Jack Dym of Pipe and Piling Supplies Ltd is the event's title sponsor.

At previous events of this kind, parents have really appreciated having all of these options under one roof. It really helped them better plan for the individual open houses.

At the St. Pius X Career Centre in Ahuntsic (9955 Papineau)

There is no admission charge and parking is free in the rear lot off Sauriol Avenue. The facility is centrally located to our entire population.

For more information please stay tuned to www.emsb.qc.ca





CALENDRIER SCOLAIRE / SCHOOL CALENDAR



SEPTEMBRE / SEPTEMBER 2026						
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OCTOBRE / OCTOBER 2026						
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JANVIER / JANUARY 2027						
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FÉVRIER / FEBRUARY 2027						
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MARS / MARCH 2027						
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AVRIL / APRIL 2027						
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JUIN / JUNE 2027						
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Holiday / Congés



Fixed Professional Days-School Board
Journées pédagogiques fixes-Commission scolaire



March Break / Relâche scolaire

School Year : August 26, 2026 to June 30, 2027
First Day of Classes : September 1, 2026
Last Day of Classes : June 23, 2027
Spring Break : March 1 to 5, 2027
Teaching Days : 180
Professional Days : August 26, 27, 28, 31, 2026
June 25, 28, 29, 30, 2027
Fixed Professional Days : October 16, 2026 (QPAT Convention)
Board-Wide Prof. Days : 2 + 1 (School Success Plan) TBD
Moveable Professional Days : 8 (6+2) TBD
(* Non-Working Day for Teachers: N/A

Année Scolaire : Du 26 août 2026 au 30 juin 2027
Première journée de cours : Le 1 septembre, 2026
Dernière journée de cours : Le 23 juin, 2027
Relâche scolaire : Du 1 mars 2027 au 5 mars 2027
Journées d'enseignement : 180
Journées pédagogiques : Le 26, 27, 28, 31 août 2026
Le 25, 28, 29, 30 juin 2027
Journées pédagogiques fixes : Le 16 octobre 2026 (Congrès APEQ)
Journées de perfectionnement : 2 + 1 (journée de planification) à déterminer
Journées pédagogiques mobiles : 8 (6+2) à déterminer
(* Journée non-travaillée pour les enseignants N/A



Calendrier interculturel et
citoyen du Québec |
Quebec Intercultural and
Citizenship Calendar



Répertoire des journées importantes et commémoratives de
Patrimoine canadien, gouvernement du Canada
Canada Heritage List of Important and Commemorative Days,
Government of Canada



EMSB hands out Volunteers of Distinction and presents Lifetime Achievement and Alumni Recognition Awards

On the occasion of National Volunteer Week last spring, the EMSB held a special reception and ceremony to honor three Volunteers of Distinction. In addition, a Lifetime Achievement and an Alumni Recognition Certificate Awards were presented.

The program took place at the St. Pius X Career Centre in Ahuntsic on April 21, where the honorees, their families, EMSB commissioners, management, in-school administrators and Parents Committee executive members were treated to dinner catered by the culinary students. This was followed by an awards ceremony, streamed live on the EMSB website.

The Volunteers of Distinction were Marie Di Fulvio and Claudia Musto from Gerald McShane Elementary School in Montreal North and Leah Trineer from Roslyn Elementary School in Westmount. Angelo Komatsoulis' extraordinary 34 year career in public education was highlighted via the Lifetime Achievement Award. He was the EMSB's first ever Director General. Pamela Pagano from CityNews Montreal will receive the Alumni Recognition Certificate.

"We are pleased and honored to be recognizing these distinguished individuals," says EMSB Director General Joe Ortona.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Angelo Komatsoulis was born in Athens, Greece in 1940, arriving in Montreal via Halifax 12 years later. "My early experience in Montreal was one of shock," he recalls. "It was mid-November, cold outside and I was wearing short pants. My father's friend took me to the closest school in our street, but I was shown the



Angelo Komatsoulis

door not being a Catholic. I was sent to Aberdeen, a Protestant school on St. Denis Street which would end up getting demolished some 60 years back. My teacher was Mrs. MacLeish (PSBGM's Anne MacLeish Mother. Although I had graduated from elementary school, I was placed in Grade 6 for the balance of the year. My impression was not what I expected. Most of the year was preparing for Queen Elizabeth's Coronation. In high school, I was the lone Greek kid in a sea of



The Komatsoulis family accepts the award on behalf of Angelo, who was unable to attend.



Marie Di Fulvio and Claudia Musto are congratulated.

Jewish youngsters. That's when I learned how to speak English."

Upon graduation from university Mr. Komatsoulis obtained a teaching diploma and was hired by the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal, where he worked for 32 years, latterly as Director General. When the EMSB was established in 1998, after Quebec transformed religious school boards along linguistic lines, he continued in that role for two years before retiring.

Mr. Komatsoulis remained involved with the PSBGM Cultural Heritage Foundation, which sold artwork and used the proceeds to cover the costs of student bursaries at the EMSB, and threw himself into his true passion of stamp collecting. He served as

president of The Canadian Stamp Dealers Association (CSDA).

Mr. Komatsoulis said he cried when the PSBGM was shut down and became the EMSB, citing unfair practices by then the Parti Québécois Minister of Education Pauline Marois who took many surplus properties and awarded them to the French school board. That cost the EMSB \$1.8 million in recurring revenue.

"I am so pleased that Mr. Komatsoulis is receiving this well-deserved award," said current EMSB Director General Nick Katalifos. "He was a true mentor to me when I first came here to teach and then moved on to become an in-school administrator."

Volunteers of Distinction

Ms. Di Fulvio and Ms. Musto have consistently gone above and beyond in their dedication to Gerald McShane, generously volunteering their time, energy, and leadership to enrich the school community. Their commitment has made a lasting impact on students, families, and staff alike.

Ms. Di Fulvio has served as the chair of the Governing Board for several years, a role that requires vision, accountability, and countless hours of behind-the-scenes work. In this capacity, she has helped guide important decisions that support student success, school operations, and long-term planning. Beyond

governance, she has been deeply involved in fundraising efforts that directly benefit student activities and programming, always focused on ensuring students have meaningful, inclusive experiences.

Ms. Di Fulvio has been volunteering at the school since 2021. She is also a Gerald McShane alum. "I volunteer for my son and seeing the children's faces when they receive love through our actions," she said. "One of my favorite projects has been breakfast with Santa. We turn the gym into Santa's workshop and create memories for the students. Gerald McShane was my second home when went there and it is important for today's students to feel the same.

Ms. Di Fulvio works as a buyer for a technology company focused on industry, infrastructure, mobility and healthcare.

Ms. Musto has also been a pillar of the school community, serving for several years as both chair and as an active member of the Parent Participation Organization. The duo's leadership and hands-on involvement have been instrumental in organizing and running major school events that students eagerly anticipate each year. From the Halloween Haunted House to Breakfast with Santa and the Spring Fling, Claudia has helped transform these events into memorable experiences

The duo's leadership and hands-on involvement have been instrumental in organizing and running major school events that students eagerly anticipate each year.

that foster school spirit and family engagement. Together, they have championed fundraising initiatives that support student activities and the school breakfast program, helping ensure students start their day ready to learn. They have also proactively built relationships with local community businesses, securing partnerships and support that enhance school programming and initiatives. Their unwavering dedication exemplifies true service and has made Gerald McShane a stronger, more connected community.

"I began volunteering three years ago because I had a child who started pre-k and I wanted to be part of the amazing community," she said. "It's unlike anything I've ever experienced and we are so fortunate that our school is comprised of such amazing teachers and staff. Helping to create magic for the kids is what makes it all worth it. They inspire us to keep going and give more. I like knowing that I am doing everything I can to ensure the short time my children and all the other children are at the school that their days here are memorable. The more I participate, the more I notice changes at the school."

Ms. Musto's your favorite project each year is a haunted house when all of the parents came together plan. Professionally she is a general contractor and interior designer.

Ms. Trineer has been volunteering at Roslyn for 25 years, beginning when her daughter started in Kindergarten. In addition she has served on the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations board for two decades.



Pamela Pagano and her family are recognized.



Leah Trineer with the Roslyn delegation.

"I have a very strong belief in our public education system," she said. "Friends told me that I should send my daughter to French school to have her become bilingual and be able to stay in the province. I did not agree. She went to Roslyn and then to Royal West. She is not only bilingual, but trilingual today as her fiancée speaks Romanian. Today, she is in her sixth year of teaching, currently at Westmount Park.

"I find that staying connected at an elementary school keeps me focused about the things that are important at the provincial level and therefore keeps the children and parents first and foremost in my mind when I sit around the table at QFHSA."

More than 20 years ago Ms. Trineer initiated a Home and School supported program of Born to Read, providing a bag of books to the new born siblings of students of Roslyn. Except for the first couple years of COVID, the program has run continuously and is still on-going. Around 2002, with the encouragement of the late Eddy Nolan, she arranged for the Home and School began to providing apples to the students after they completed their run for Terry Fox.

Professionally Ms. Trineer has always worked in the areas of audit, financial accounting, and treasury. She currently works as an Associate at National Bank Financial.

Pamela Pagano

From a college newsroom to red carpets, Pamela Pagano has built a journalism career rooted in heart and human connection. It all began at Dawson College, where her first-ever article featured an Oscar-winning animator – which helped spark her immense interest in the field. Pamela attended the former General Vanier Elementary School and Laurier Macdonald High School.

While studying journalism at Concordia University, Pamela interned at Entertainment Tonight Canada, which made her pack her bags and live in Toronto for a few months.

Over eight years, she volunteered at MATv Montreal, falling in love with the art of local storytelling. That passion grew into Kind Time, her own online series celebrating kindness through intimate interviews with changemakers. The show even hit the TIFF red carpet, where she interviewed stars like Andrea Bocelli, Malala Yousafzai, and Ben Stiller.

Grateful for every story she hears and gets to share, Pamela then brought her voice to actor John Krasinski's Some Good News platform and later to the Juno Awards in Halifax, and the 50th Daytime Emmy Awards in Hollywood.

Pamela is a 2025 RTDNA Canada award recipient for Excellence in Sports Reporting in the video category of Best Canadian Local News. She has carved out a unique beat focused exclusively on good news at

CityNews Montreal with a team of colleagues she considers her second family.

Program Sponsor

Beneva (www.beneva.ca) continues to serve as the title sponsor for the EMSB's recognition efforts for volunteers. The company offers a wide range of products and services that are designed to simplify financial choices for members working in the public and para-public sectors in over 900 public and para-public institutions across the province. These services include: personal financial advice, savings, investments and funds; individual life and health insurance; mortgages and personal loans; insurance for automobiles, recreational vehicles, home, travel and legal access; commercial insurance; and group insurance. For details click here: <https://groupes.beneva.ca/en/emsb/financial-services>

To all the volunteers , we acknowledge your dedication and volunteerism.

Thank you to all.

Chess and Math



Mr. Vincent and his talented chess students.

At Cedarcrest Elementary School, Vincent Ng has been fostering a love of chess through a dedicated lunchtime and after-school chess program for a few years now. He organizes student teams (featuring students from K to Grade 6) for two scholastic team tournaments a year hosted by the Chess’n Math Association and regularly volunteers his weekends to lead practice sessions for Cedarcrest students at local libraries in Saint-Laurent. Multiple teams from the school brought home medals at these events during the last school year.

Beyond team events, students are encouraged to participate in individual tournaments throughout the year and are supported with coaching and mentorship by Mr. Vincent at competitions. In April, five Cedarcrest students from Kindergarten to Grade 5 qualified for and competed in the Défi Échiquéen du Québec, the provincial chess championships. The students demonstrated tremendous dedication, perseverance, and sportsmanship throughout the season, representing Cedarcrest with pride both at the board and as teammates.

Generous Donation



Tommaso Marcantonio and Mattia Potenza are thanked by staff and students.

The EMSB Board is celebrating a generous donation of \$20,000 to four schools in St-Léonard by Tommaso Marcantonio and Mattia Potenza of Gestion MMTP (<https://www.gestionmmt.com/en/gestionrpa>). EMSB Chair Joe Ortona and Commissioner for St-Léonard Mario Pietrangelo were elated with the news. It was Mr. Pietrangelo who approached

Gestion MMTP for the support. This will enable the three elementary schools – Dante, Honoré-Mercier and Pierre-de-Coubertin – as well as Laurier Macdonald High School to purchase equipment or other items not covered in the regular budget for the next calendar year. They will each be allocated \$5,000.

Voices of Olympia



From Marymount (left to right) Quynh Anh Nguyen, Xinyi Su, Mei Lin Nicolae-Chu, Ranim Sleiman and Sanya Bucktawar, guided by were coached by their teacher Dimitra Thomakos.

The Voices of Olympia Canada (VOOC) team from Marymount Academy International in NDG achieved an impressive second place at the national finals held last May. This achievement reflects months of deep inquiry, collaboration, and commitment to global citizenship. Voices of Olympia Canada is a project based learning initiative that encourages students

to think critically about gender inequalities and their impact on the empowerment of girls and women. The theme of the 2025-2026 edition of the Voices of Olympia Canada School Competition was “Imagine an Artificial Intelligence for the common good with an ethical use and an accountable digital governance.”

That Special Podcast

Ilanit-Michele Woods (Ciment), a BAFTA-winning, Emmy-nominated sound editor for film and television, is the creator of the podcast Olga, Erika, and Me. Originally from Montreal, she attended FACE School, Concordia, and McGill, before working in New York and eventually settling in London. Olga, Erika and Me is a six-part podcast retracing her grandmother Olga’s story of survival during the Holocaust – from Hungary to Auschwitz and beyond – alongside conversations with her mother Erika and reflections from three generations of their family. The podcast weaves together memoir, personal journeys, and raw family conversations, exploring not only history, but how trauma and memory are carried forward. Last spring she paid a visit to her former FACE School



Ilanit-Michele Woods (Ciment) with her family and FACE students.

to provide an interesting look back on how the podcast was established and why. Go to

Apple podcasts and type in the title to find it.

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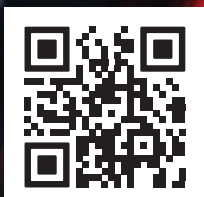
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EMSB presents Teacher Recognition Awards

The 2026 EMSB Teacher Recognition Awards were handed out on May 8 at Laurier Macdonald High School in St Leonard.

This program was held in collaboration with Baton Rouge Grillhouse & Bar, CineStarz Deluxe Lacordaire, CityNews Montreal and Homers Donuts.

The following teachers were recognized for their dedication and excellence:

- **Anna Maria Lombardo**, Math and Science & Technology Teacher, Laurier Macdonald High School

- **Luigi Rucci**, an automobile mechanics teacher at Laurier Macdonald Career Centre
- **Patty Foschi**, Physical Education Teacher, Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School (Rosemount)

Each honoree received a \$150 gift certificate from Baton Rouge Grillhouse & Bar, gift cards to the new CineStarz Deluxe Multi-plex in St. Léonard and CityNews Montreal was present to provide event coverage. Here is the link: <https://montreal.citynews.ca/2026/05/08/emsb-honours-three-outstanding-teachers/>

Anna Maria Lombardo

Anna Maria Lombardo has been teaching since 2004, having grown up in the East End of Montreal. She attended the EMSB’s Gerald McShane Elementary, the former Sir Wilfred Laurier Junior High and Lester B. Pearson High School in Montreal North. From Dawson College she went on to Concordia and McGill where she earned Bachelor degrees in psy-

chology and education. Ms. Lombardo teaches Secondary IV and V mathematics. “I always knew I wanted to work with kids, but I had a hard time figuring out exactly which career path to take,” she said. “I always enjoyed math in school because of the clear, step-by-step process involved in solving problem. I like how logical and structured it is.”

Luigi Rucci

Mr. Rucci has spent over 20 years working in the automotive industry as a first-class automotive technician, including time with Volkswagen and General Motors. Over the years, he developed a strong passion not only for the trade itself, but for sharing that knowledge with others. In the classroom, he focuses on helping students build both their tech-

nical skills and their confidence. “I enjoy breaking down complex concepts and connecting theory to real-world situations, making learning more meaningful and practical,” he says. “I believe in creating a supportive environment where students feel respected, motivated, and encouraged to grow.”

Patty Foschi

Ms. Foschi says that as long as she can remember, she wanted to be a teacher. “I always imagined creating fun, engaging lessons and inspiring my students to learn,” she said. “When I arrived at McGill University, however, I faced an important decision: would my classroom be a traditional one, or a gymnasium? By combining my love for teaching children with my passion for sports, I discovered my true calling in physical education – and I never looked back. I was

fortunate to secure a teaching position at the age of 22, and what a remarkable journey it has been.” Ms. Foschi grew up in St. Leonard, where she attended Pierre de Coubertin Elementary School (Kindergarten and Grade 6) and General Vanier Elementary School (Grades 1–5). She continued on to John Paul I for junior high, followed by Laurier Macdonald High School where her love for soccer, track and field, and team sports truly flourished. “This year marks 26 years of



Anna Maria Lombardo with the Laurier Macdonald team.



Luigi Rucci from Laurier Macdonald Career Centre.



Patty Foschi and her Pierre Elliott Trudeau colleagues.

teaching with the EMSB,” she said, noting how she began her career at the former Emily Carr Elementary School which merged with Francesca Cabrini to form the then new entity of Pierre Elliott

Trudeau a year later. “Throughout my career, I have been a strong advocate for the importance of quality physical education. It is a foundation for social, emotional, physical, and lifelong skills –

especially in today’s increasingly “on screen” world.” You can read our detailed story at: <https://www.emsb.qc.ca/emsb/articles/emsb-presents-teacher-recognition-awards>

Want to advertise with us?

The EMSB Express has a print run of 25,000. Copies are delivered to all students and staff, as well as to drop-off points across the city.

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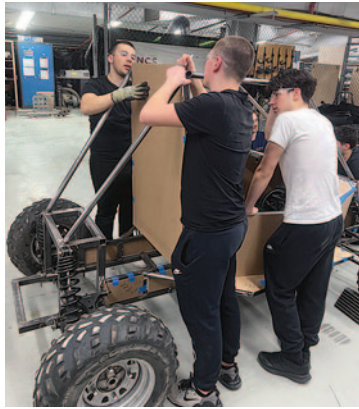
Our next edition will be published next March. We do accept advertising, provided the content meets the standards of a public school board.

Contact mcohen@emsb.qc.ca for inquiries.



Le Collège Vincent Massey construit une voiture

Il y a deux ans, un élève de secondaire IV avait un rêve – comme d’autres élèves du Collège Vincent Massey, à Rosemont, avant lui – construire une voiture. L’enseignante de sciences Sabrina Mancuso a eu la chance de relever ce défi il y a 20 ans, et tout récemment, l’école a dévoilé une voiture électrique entièrement fonctionnelle. Il s’agit du troisième véhicule du Collège Vincent Massey assemblé par des élèves. L’élève en question est Nicholas Giannini, un jeune rempli d’ambition, de vision et de détermination. Il a formé une équipe de 12 garçons et une fille qui se sont pleinement engagés dans cette aventure extraordinaire. Tout au long du projet, l’équipe a acquis des compétences essentielles : collecte de fonds, rédaction de lettres, réseautage, résolution de problèmes et travail d’équipe. Leur travail acharné leur a permis d’obtenir le soutien de plus de 15 commanditaires, dont une généreuse contribution de 3 000 \$ de la Caisse Desjardins.



L’école a dévoilé une voiture électrique entièrement fonctionnelle.

Grâce à leurs efforts de réseautage, ils ont également établi un lien avec un ancien élève du Collège Vincent Massey, Rick Gioia, qui les a mis en contact avec une formidable équipe de l’Université Concordia, laquelle a joué un rôle déterminant dans le développement de la voiture.

<https://www.emsbupdate.com/2026/05/vincent-massey-collegiate-students-have.html>

Aladdin



Le spectacle a proposé de magnifiques interprétations de chansons très appréciées.

Le spectacle Aladdin présenté par l’école primaire Gerald McShane a été une remarquable démonstration du talent des élèves et de leur esprit de collaboration. La comédie musicale de cette année a une nouvelle fois mis en évidence l’engagement de l’école à encourager la créativité des élèves de la maternelle à la 6e année, chacun d’entre eux ayant contribué à la qualité des performances de la chorale. Le spectacle a proposé de magnifiques interprétations de

chansons très appréciées telles que Ce rêve bleu (A Whole New World), Je suis ton meilleur ami (Friend Like Me), Nuits d’Arabie (Arabian Nights) et bien d’autres grands succès connus du public. La talentueuse troupe, composée de 35 élèves de 5e et 6e année, a consacré les six derniers mois à la préparation de ce spectacle remarquable, et leur travail acharné a véritablement brillé sur scène. Leur assurance, la puissance de leur voix et leur interprétation sincère ont captivé le public et sublimé l’ensemble

de la production. Comme chaque année, le dévouement du personnel de l’école Gerald McShane a joué un rôle essentiel dans la réalisation de cette comédie musicale. Sous la direction experte de Mme Alongi, enseignante de musique de l’école, les élèves ont été guidés avec soin et enthousiasme, ce qui a donné lieu à un spectacle impeccable et mémorable. Cette comédie musicale annuelle reste un événement incontournable pour les spectateurs de tous âges.

La SPCA dans nos écoles

Des présentations en classe sont actuellement proposées par la SPCA de Montréal dans nos écoles! Erin Martellani, responsable du programme d’éducation à la compassion de la SPCA, propose des présentations éducatives et stimulantes pour les élèves de tous les niveaux du primaire, avec du

matériel à rapporter à la maison. L’atelier Mes amis les animaux (pour les élèves de la maternelle à la 3e année) se termine par la création d’un chien en papier personnalisé que les élèves peuvent nommer et conserver. L’autre atelier, Animaux heureux, planète en santé, s’adresse aux

élèves de la 4e à la 6e année à qui l’on remet un journal d’engagement pour la planète comprenant des autocollants sur lesquels ils peuvent dessiner afin de se rappeler leurs apprentissages. Chaque présentation dure 60 minutes, le coût est de 100 \$ et le programme est disponible en anglais ou en français. Pour plus de détails sur ces présentations, vous pouvez consulter : <https://www.sPCA.com/>

en/classroom-presentations-and-activities / ou écrire à education@spca.com pour

Erin Martellani, responsable du programme d’éducation à la compassion de la SPCA, propose des présentations éducatives et stimulantes pour les élèves.



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EMSB Express Quiz

CLUE: The answers to these questions can be easily found by reading this issue of the EMSB Express.

- 1 Which three EMSB schools turned 50?
- 2 Which Quebec government bill is EMSB Chair Joe Ortona concerned about?
- 3 Which high school did the concert that Nick Katalifos writes about take place at?
- 4 Where will the 2026 EMSB Education and Career Fair be held?
- 5 When is March Break in 2027?
- 6 Who was presented with the EMSB Lifetime Achievement Award at Volunteer Night?
- 7 At which school were three EMSB teachers honored?
- 8 Which school did Ilanit -Michele Woods (Ciment) return to visit?
- 9 Which two gentleman gave a \$20,000 donation to four St. Léonard schools?
- 10 Which Montreal city councillor was a guest special at the James Lyng Adult Education Centre Literacy Fair?

Please cut out this form and bring it to your school office and ask that it be sent to Room 109 of the EMSB Head Office at 6000 Fielding Ave. via the internal mail system. You can also access the form at www.emsb.qc.ca.

NAME _____
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The deadline is October 23, 2026.

The Tasting Table Project

Francesca Gentile and Flora Bufo from Galileo Adult Education Centre launched an engaging new project called The Tasting Table, where students research, explore and taste new foods in a hands-on and meaningful way. Using iPads, students browse the Maxi flyer to see what's on sale and select foods they are curious about discovering and tasting. The students then researches the foods including the country of origin and how the foods are grown or made, this strengthening both their technology and research skills

while deepening their understanding of what they eat. Learning then extends beyond the classroom and into the community. Students take part in a guided walk to Maxi, where they bring their plans to life by selecting and purchasing their chosen items. This real-world experience introduces practical money skills, encourages thoughtful decision-making, and supports growing independence in a supportive, collaborative setting. Throughout the project, students develop sensory awareness through tasting and observation while

expanding their food vocabulary and learning about diverse cultures. The experience promotes turn-taking, communication, and critical thinking, while encouraging curiosity and confidence in trying new foods. It also opens the door to meaningful discussions about health and nutrition. The Tasting Table makes learning active, social, and fun, while helping students build lasting connections to their everyday lives. The teachers' full names are Francesca Gentile and Flora Bufo.



The students on site at Maxi.

Financial Literacy

Two representatives from Scotiabank Quartier Cavendish, Nicolas Blais and Christina Vendetti, gave a financial literacy workshop at the Wagar Adult Education Centre in Côte Saint-Luc. The two students were all new immigrants to Canada, learning English and French, so the information they gleaned was very helpful.



Nicolas Blais and Christina Vendetti from Scotiabank provided the students with a lot of valuable information.

James Lyng Literacy Fair

The annual Literacy Fair at James Lyng Adult Education Centre was a big success. There were a number of kiosks featuring literacy organizations, book giveaways and more. Montreal City Councillor Leslie Roberts was a special guest. He is responsible for the relations with anglophones and he was very impressed with the level of French spoken by students from around the globe.



Montreal City Councillor Leslie Roberts was impressed with what he saw at James Lyng Adult Education Centre.

LMAC Career Open House

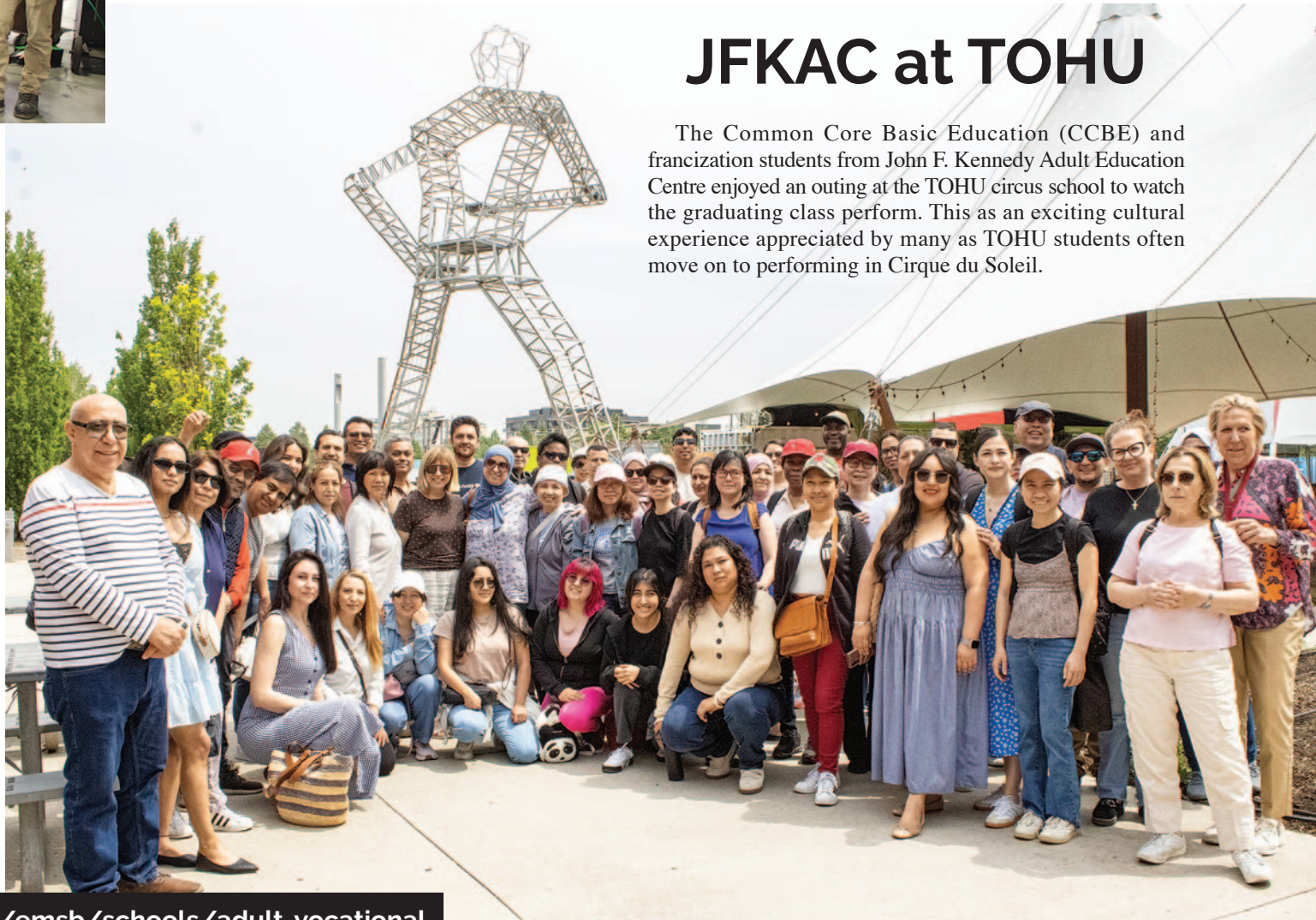


Laurier Macdonald Career Centre held a hugely successful Open House on May 28 at their de Grand Prairies campus. Hundreds of people came out to watch a fashion show, check out classic cars and find out why this is such a terrific spot to learn and find gainful employment. The auto mechanics staff and students showcased their excellent program while the team in aesthetics and barbering did the same. There were a number of food trucks on the premises serving up pizza, smash burgers, pasta, ice cream and more.

Visitors had a chance to visit the state of the art Laurier Macdonald Career Centre Auto Mechanics des Grandes Prairies facility.

JFKAC at TOHU

The Common Core Basic Education (CCBE) and francization students from John F. Kennedy Adult Education Centre enjoyed an outing at the TOHU circus school to watch the graduating class perform. This as an exciting cultural experience appreciated by many as TOHU students often move on to performing in Cirque du Soleil.



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